



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
October 25, 2002

PATENT APPLICATION

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11/5/02  
RECEIVED  
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Applicant: Hiroaki KITAMOTO  
For: CAPPING METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Serial No.: 09/777 378 Group: 3721  
Confirmation No.: 8381  
Filed: February 6, 2001 Examiner: Nash  
Atty. Docket No.: Kanzaki Case 161  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

### RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 15, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments:

#### IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract of the Disclosure enclosed herewith. A marked-up copy is enclosed.

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended paragraphs is enclosed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2, and ending on page 2, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a  
1  
According to the conventional method, the incipient position of a meshing engagement between both threads is determined on the basis of the magnitude of descent of the cap, and this, disadvantageously, requires the provision of means for detecting the descent. Such detecting means would include a vertically slidable component, which undergoes an abrasion, thus presenting a problem in respect of durability.